

Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02 OMB-01

IO-14 DRC-01 /183 W

----- 114198

R 152130Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1782

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 2263

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD CO

SUBJ: COUNTERVAILING DUTY AND CUT FLOWERS

REF: BOGOTA 2180

1. PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST US COUNTERVAILING DUTY PROCEEDINGS CONTINUING THOUGH NOT IN HIGH KEY. EDITORIAL IN EL SIGLO MARCH 15 CONTRASTS US ACTION UNFAVORABLY WITH LDC ASSISTANCE NEEDS AS INCREASED BY ENERGY CRISIS. CARTOON IN EL TIEMPO SHOWS TERN UNCLE SAM TELLING POOR FLOWER GIRL SHE CANNOT SELL HER WARES. ARTICLE IN EL ESPECTADOR ALLEGES HALF A MILLION COLOMBIANS DEPEND ON FLOWER INDUSTRY. (THIS IS GROSS EXAGGERATION; FLOWER GROWERS THEMSELVES ONLY CLAIM 100,000 PEOPLE LIVE OFF INDUSTRY, CONSISTING OF 12,000 WORKERS PLUS THEIR DEPENDENTS.) EL COLOMBIANO OF MEDELLIN COMMENTS THAT WISE AND SENSIBLE VOICES HEARD IN BOTH US AND COLOMBIA SEEKING JUST RESOLUTION AND TO AVOID CONFLICT.

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2. MINAG COMPLAINED TO CHARGE AT SOCIAL FUNCTION ABOUT LACK OF

INJURY REQUIREMENT IN US LAW, AND THAT US HAD NOT GIVEN FRIENDLY GOVT SUCH AS COLOMBIA OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS AND NEGOTIATE THIS PROBLEM: HE ASKED IF 30-DAY PERIOD FOR COMMENTS WAS WHAT WE MEANT BY PRIOR CONSULTATION AT MEXICO CITY. HE ADDED THAT REBATE SYSTEM ACKNOWLEDGED TO BE TOO BROAD IN APPLICATION AND GOC HAD BEEN CONSIDERING THIS FOR SOME TIME. THEREFORE GOC WOULD HAVE APPRECIATED ADVANCE NOTICE OF CUT FLOWER PROBLEM. MINISTER SAID PRES PASTRANA MOST CONCERNED AND WARNED WE MIGHT RECEIVE VERY HARD NOTE OR REQUEST TO MEET WITH PASTRANA IN THIS ISSUE.

3. FONOFF ECONOMIC SUB-SECRETARY ALSO LECTURED ECONOMIC COUNSELOR ON SUBJ, USING STANDARD ARGUMENTS. HE SAID GOC WOULD USE ALL AVAILABLE FORUMS TO FIGHT BACK. THOUGH FONOFF DOES NOT YET HAVE REPLY TO OUR NOTE INVITING DISCUSSIONS WITH TREASURY DEPT, HE HOPED TO HAVE ANSWER EARLY NEXT WEEK.

WHITE

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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